

**EdBlast! — Superintendents**  
**Number 81**  
**September 22, 2006**

**Editor's Note:** In recent weeks, a technical problem beyond our control has prevented the dissemination of EdBlast!. This problem has been resolved. We apologize and appreciate your patience as we worked to return this newsletter to its regular schedule.

**Message from the State Superintendent of Education**

At Bell's Crossing Elementary School, brochures from each grade level explaining expectations regarding standards and curriculum are distributed to all parents. A packet of information is available for visitors and newcomers, and school tours are available on request. Office staff members greet visitors with a friendly attitude and offer prompt assistance. In addition, phone calls are voice-answered during the day within three rings.

The Greenville County school is one 443 South Carolina schools that has been honored and awarded Red Carpets for their family-friendly environments and excellent customer service over the past five years. These schools consistently provide inviting environments where visitors are always welcome and where parents and community members are actively involved in the school's decision-making process.

To help schools prepare their Red Carpet applications, information about the award will be available via a special teleconference on Wednesday, September 27, from 1:00 to 2:30 P.M. on SCETV satellite channel 301. During the teleconference, principals from three of last year's Red Carpet Schools will highlight their programs, and members from the South Carolina chapter of the National School Public Relations Association will provide tips to help make schools more warm and inviting. A question and answer session will also be included.

I encourage participation in this nationally recognized program. If you have questions or comments, the program coordinator, Frank White, can be reached at 803-743-8367 or by e-mail at [fwhite@ed.sc.gov](mailto:fwhite@ed.sc.gov). For those schools that would like to enter the judging for this school year, remember that Friday, September 29, is the deadline for filing a Notice of Intent form.

For more details, go to [http://ed.sc.gov/visitors/educators/red\\_carpet/](http://ed.sc.gov/visitors/educators/red_carpet/).

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### **Students produce mixed results on 2006 administration of PACT**

South Carolina students showed mixed performance in 2006 PACT testing, according to data released last week by the State Department of Education. The details can be found at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=699>

### **First scores released on 'new SAT' while AP scores move to all-time highs**

The College Board recently released South Carolina's first-year baseline scores on its newly redesigned SAT test. The state's Advanced Placement exam scores improved to an all-time high, the College Board reported. The complete South Carolina SAT Report, including scores from all districts and high schools, is available at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/topics/assessment/scores/sat/2006/index.html>

### **O'Charley's honored for service to youth**

O' Charley's restaurant was recognized by Palmetto Serves, a state program that honors volunteers who provide exemplary service to youth and families. To read the details, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=698>

### **Daniel High School physics teacher receives Disney award**

Dr. Patrick Welsh, a physics teacher at D.W. Daniel High School in Central, has received the prestigious 2006 Disney Teacher Award. Recognized from among 75,000 teachers nationwide, the Pickens County teacher was honored for his exceptional creativity, innovative teaching style and ability to inspire students. To read more, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=682>

### **Prudential honors two South Carolina students**

Last May, Welland Burnside of Murrells Inlet and Caitlyn Carlile of Spartanburg were honored in Washington, D.C. for their outstanding community service by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. The organizations has begun its search for youth who made meaningful contributions to their communities over the past year, as the prestigious awards program kicks off its 12<sup>th</sup> year. Applications can be obtained by calling 888-450-9961 or at:

<http://www.prudential.com/spirit>

<http://principals.org/prudential>

### **Science Academic Standards Support Guide now available**

The South Carolina Science Academic Standards Support Guide is available on-line. Developed in cooperation with South Carolina educators, this publication is a helpful resource for educators trying to implement standards-based science instruction. To view the document, visit:

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/cso/standards/science/sd.html>

### **Grant writing workshop set**

The State Department of Education's grant writing workshop, "From Reading the Guidelines to Submitting the Proposal," will be held December 4-6, 2006. The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m., November 15, 2006. To enroll, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2006GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>

### **Pledges sought for participation in Family Day**

TV Land, Nick at Nite, and the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University are appealing to millions of Americans to support "Family Day – A

Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children.” The observance day is planned for September 24. Participants share one meal with loved ones, be it breakfast, lunch, or dinner. For more information, log on to:

<http://www.familytable.info>

### **Sunday is Good Neighbor Day**

National Good Neighbor Day is Sunday, September 24. For more information about this annual celebration, visit:

<http://natgoodneighborday.org>

### **Instructional issues conference planned**

State Teacher of the Year Buffy Murphy and Charles R. Smith, Jr., a photographer and children’s author, headline an instructional issues conference sponsored by the South Carolina Education Association scheduled for October 14 in Columbia. For registration information, contact Kayetta Meadows ([kmeadows@thescea.org](mailto:kmeadows@thescea.org)) at 803-551-4136.

### **Praxis workshops planned**

The Palmetto State Teachers Association is sponsoring Praxis I and II workshops on Saturday, October 21. The workshops will be held at Lexington Town Hall in Lexington. Praxis I will be held from 10 am. – 1 p.m. The cost is \$10. Praxis II will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for PSTA members and \$25 for nonmembers.

### **Charleston is host to Educational Care for All Kinds of Minds seminar**

“Educational Care for All Kinds of Minds” is a day-and-a-half exploratory seminar for school leaders and others who are charged with creating a successful learning experience for all students. During the seminar, participants hear Dr. Mel Levine and his staff speak about using the science of learning to understand every student’s strengths and weaknesses. A seminar is scheduled for Charleston November 9 and 10. For more information, visit:

<http://allkindsofminds.org/educationalcare/index.aspx>

### **Council on economic education offering workshops**

The South Carolina Council on Economic Education is offering several free workshops for teachers. Topics for the one-day workshops include math and economics connections, economics and history integration, and personal finance. A four-day residential workshop will help middle and high school teachers develop an understanding of how market solutions may be used to deal with environmental issues. For more information, contact Donna Windham at 803-777-2968 and visit:

<http://www.sceconomics.org/>

### **United States Senate Youth Program offering scholarships**

The United States Senate Youth Program, funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is again offering scholarships and recognition to South Carolina's juniors and seniors. The competition is open to students who currently serve in an elected student government capacity and who otherwise qualify as specified in the USSYP brochure. For additional information, contact Beth Cope ([bcope@ed.sc.gov](mailto:bcope@ed.sc.gov)) or visit the Foundation's website:

<http://www.ussenateyouth.org>

### **“Poetry Out Loud” deadline approaching**

“Poetry Out Loud” begins at the classroom level, with winners from each classroom advancing to a school-wide competition. Sponsored in this state by the Arts Commission, the competition will be held in mid-March. Ultimately, one student from each state will compete in the national finals in Washington, DC in late April. The program satisfies more than half of the National Council of Teachers of English English/Language Arts standards as well as many of the South Carolina English/Language Arts standards. The deadline to sign up is September 29. For additional information, contact Theresa J. Wallace ([twallace@arts.state.sc.us](mailto:twallace@arts.state.sc.us)) at 803-734-8639, or visit:

<http://www.poetryoutloud.org>

### **Medieval Times plans education extravaganza**

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament in Myrtle Beach will hold its first Education Extravaganza on September 23 from 11 am- 2 pm, with educational performances at 11:45 am and 12:45 pm. This event is free and limited to teachers from North and South Carolina. Reservations are necessary. For more information, call Jennifer Willard ( [Jennifer.willard@medievaltimes.com](mailto:Jennifer.willard@medievaltimes.com)) at (843) 236-8080, extension 133, or visit

<http://www.medievaltimes.com>

### **Walk to School Day is October 4**

International Walk to School Day is a global event where children, adults, schools, and communities come together to raise awareness about walking issues. It is an excellent way to promote physical activity, teach traffic safety skills, and identify and implement steps toward safer communities for walking and bicycling. For information about Walk to School Day in South Carolina, including free materials for participating schools, contact Amy Splittgerber or visit:

<http://www.scwalktoschool.org>

### **School Boards Association sponsors awards**

The South Carolina School Boards Association is seeking nominations for its 2006 Legislative Advocacy Program of the Year award. To be eligible, programs must have operated for the most recent legislative sessions of the United States Congress and the South Carolina General Assembly. The award will be presented at the organization's conference December 1-3 on Hilton Head, and the deadline for application is September 30. For additional information, contact Debbie Elmore ([delmore@scsba.state.sc.us](mailto:delmore@scsba.state.sc.us)) at 800-326-3679.

### **Poster contest educates young people about safety**

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation's Life "Behind the Cones and Barrels – How Roadway Workers Keep America Moving" poster contest educates young people about work zone safety before they begin to drive. Winners receive cash prizes, with a matching gift going to each winner's school. Submissions must be received by March 15. For more information, contact Melanie Myers or Lori Wilcox at 540-368-1701 or visit:

<http://www.atssa.com/page.wv?section=The+Foundation&name=Poster+Contest>

### **Lowe's program accepting applications**

To empower parents and further encourage their involvement in their children's schools, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has established the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program to fund school improvement projects initiated by parents. Lowe's will donate a total of \$5 million to schools and school parent teacher groups at more than 1,000 different schools in 2006 and 2007. For more information, visit:

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowe's/Community>

### **Target launches new field trip grants program**

As part of the Target commitment to supporting education, the new Target Field Trip Grants program will award U.S. educators grants of \$1,000 each to fund a field trip for their students. To learn more, go to:

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>

### **National Education Association offers arts grants to teachers**

The National Education Association Fine Arts Grants Program is designed to enable fine arts teachers to create and implement fine arts programs that promote learning among students at risk of school failure. To find out about the application process, go to:

[http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/FineArts\\_Guidelines.htm](http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/FineArts_Guidelines.htm)

### **Duke talent search underway**

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search is underway. For more information, go to:

[http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent\\_searches/grade\\_7/](http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/)

[http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent\\_searches/grade\\_7/7TS\\_Coordinator%27s\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/7TS_Coordinator%27s_Guide.pdf)

[http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent\\_searches/grade\\_7/test\\_and\\_test\\_dates.html](http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/test_and_test_dates.html)

### **School Board Association accepting proposals**

Proposals for the 2007 South Carolina School Boards Association's annual convention, scheduled for February 22-25 in Hilton Head, are now being accepted. Samples of proposal topics include successful district programs and practices, strategies for working with diverse student and parent groups, and effective district governance procedures. The deadline to submit proposals is September 29. For additional information, contact Gwen Jobes Hampton ([ghampton@scsba.org](mailto:ghampton@scsba.org)) at 800-326-3679, Ext. 251, or visit:

<http://www.scsba.org>

### **Nance is September honoree**

The biggest moment of Dr. M. Maceo Nance's 19-year tenure as president of South Carolina State University came early, within his first year at the helm. In 1968, three SC State students were killed by state Highway patrolmen. The tragic confrontation between students and state troopers took place during a student-led protest of an Orangeburg bowling alley and its policy of racial segregation. The officers opened fire in an incident remembered as the Orangeburg Massacre. To read more about Nance, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

### **This issue's quotation**

"Hospitality should have no other nature than love." ~~ Henrietta Mears

### **EdBlast! welcomes submissions**

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to [jfairnot@ed.sc.gov](mailto:jfairnot@ed.sc.gov) or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

### **Spread the word about EdBlast!**

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!